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[WHITEHAVEN

BOROUGH of



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1955

J. W. MACKAY, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.,

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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## HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

*Chairman* ... .. Councillor WALSH

*Vice-Chairman* ... .. Alderman STEPHENSON

The Mayor (Councillor HANLON)

Aldermen BLAMIRE and KNIPE

*Councillors*—BAXTER, DENVIR, GARRAWAY and REED.

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## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B.,

Ch.B., D.P.H. ... .. *Medical Officer of Health*  
(Retired in Feb., 1955)

J. W. MACKAY ... .. *Acting Medical Officer of Health*  
M.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Appointed Oct., 1955)

A. A. BELDON, C.R.S.I. ... .. *Sanitary Inspector*

V. G. CATER, C.R.S.I. ... .. *Additional Sanitary Inspector*

J. TAYLOR, C.R.S.I. ... .. *Additional Sanitary Inspector*

Miss I. DAVIDSON ... .. *Clerk*  
(Jointly with Ennerdale R.D.)

Miss G. BANKS ... .. *Clerk-Typist*

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## PART TIME.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,  
M.D., F.R.F.P.S., *Bacteriologist, Cumberland Laboratory*

C. J. H. STOCK, B.Sc., F.I.C. ... .. *Analyst*

## A.—STATISTICAL SUMMARY

### I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	4,315
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-year, 1955)	...	...	...	...	25,290
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1955) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	7,349
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955)	...	...	...	...	£139,394
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£535

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<i>BIRTHS</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	...	255	243	498
—Illegitimate	...	7	6	13
Total	...	262	249	511

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population ... 20.2

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population ... 19.4

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	...	9	3	12
—Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
Total	...	10	3	13

Rate per 1,000 total births ... 24.8

<i>DEATHS</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	150	157	307
*Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	...		12.1	
*Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	...		13.9	

\*See page 8 of text.

*Deaths from Puerperal Causes.*

				<i>Rate per 1,000 (Live &amp; Still)</i>	
				<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Births</i>
Maternal causes excluding abortion	...	...	...	—	—
Due to abortion	...	...	...	—	—
Total				—	—

*Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.*

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	29
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				24
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				231

*Deaths from*

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	49
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population at mid-year, 1955, on which the statistics are based, shows an increase of 50 as compared with the estimate for 1954.



The population at the 1951 census and the mid-year estimates for the intercensal years are shown below:—

			<i>Actual Count at Census.</i>	<i>Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimates.</i>
1951	...	...	24,620	24,480
1952	...	...	—	24,630
1953	...	...	—	24,940
1954	...	...	—	25,240
1955	...	...	—	25,290

BIRTHS.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population		...	...	20.2
„	„	England and Wales	...	15.0
„	„	160 Great Towns	...	14.9
„	„	160 Smaller Towns (population 25,000—50,000)	...	14.9
„	„	London Ad. County	...	15.1
„	„	County of Cumberland	...	16.4

The number of live births registered during the year was 511, 262 males and 249 females, of whom 7 males and 6 females were illegitimate. This shows a decrease of 2 births as compared with the number for the previous year. Illegitimate births were the same as last year and constituted 2.5% of the total, the same as for the previous year, and 4.5 for the whole country. The Birth Rate was 20.2 per thousand of estimated resident population, the rate being 0.1 less than the rate for 1954 and 5.2 higher than the rate for the country as a whole.

The following Table shows the average annual number of births and average annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales along with the actual figures for 1955:

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven		England and Wales.
	Average Annual No. of Births.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	586	32.0	30.5
1896—1900	595	30.9	29.3
1901—1905	644	33.3	28.2
1906—1910	592	30.6	26.3
1911—1915	568	29.6	23.6
1916—1920	533	27.8	20.1
1921—1925	559	27.6	19.9
1926—1930	485	24.0	16.7
1931—1935	449	20.5	15.0
1936—1940	416	18.4	14.7
1941—1945	446	19.8	16.2
1946—1950	507	21.8	18.0
1951—1955	507	20.3	15.3
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1955	511	20.2	15.0

DEATHS.

Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	12.1
„ „ England and Wales	...	11.7
„ „ 160 Great Towns	...	11.6
„ „ 160 Smaller Towns	...	11.6
„ „ London	...	11.5
„ „ County of Cumberland	...	12.2

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowance for inward and outward transfers of persons normally resident in the town who died away from home, and of persons who died in the town but who did not normally reside there, was, according to the Registrar-General, 307, viz., 150 males and 157 females, which gives a Crude Death Rate of 12.1 per thousand.

As explained at some length in the Report for 1953, persons dying in Part III accommodation are now included in

the number of Whitehaven deaths, irrespective of where they came from. Last year there were 16 such deaths, as against 10 in the previous year, so that the death rate was not too badly upset. Without these the rate for Whitehaven would have been 11.5.

The chief causes of death during the year were Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System 156, Cancer 49, Respiratory Diseases, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc., 16, Accidents 6, and Tuberculosis 2.

The following Table shows the average annual number of deaths and the average annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures for 1955:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales
	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	372	19.9	18.7
1896—1900	368	18.1	17.7
1901—1905	368	19.2	16.0
1906—1910	393	20.4	14.7
1911—1915	350	18.2	14.3
1916—1920	315	17.3	14.4
1921—1925	320	15.6	12.1
1926—1930	292	13.8	12.1
1931—1935	281	12.8	12.0
1936—1940	307	13.6	12.5
1941—1945	270	12.0	12.8
1946—1950	305	13.1	11.7
1951—1955	271	10.9	11.6
	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1955	*291	*11.5	*11.5

\* This number and rate are for Whitehaven deaths only, as otherwise they would bear no comparable relation to the rest of the table.



The ages of all cases who died during 1955 and the causes of death are shown in the following Tables:—

AGE AT DEATH OF ALL CASES, WHITEHAVEN BOROUGH, 1955.

Age Groups	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	Over 75	Total
Males ...	*12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	15	26	44	41	146
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Females ...	*3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3	9	16	47	64	145
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	7	12

\* Whitehaven cases only.

# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
					*	*
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...				I	I
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...			—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	I	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...				—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...			7	7:I
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	...				4	—:I
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...			—	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...			—	8
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms					10	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	I
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...				17	31
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...			29	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...				I	6
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	18:3	25:2
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	5	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	I	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	I
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...				I	I
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...				I	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...				I	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	I	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	I	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...				—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	I	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...				31:I	23:8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	—
All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	...				—	—
Total (all Causes)					146:4	145:12

\* Whitehaven cases only.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths within the year.

The Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births was, therefore, nil, as compared with the following rates for the whole country:—

	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Total Births</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Maternal causes excluding abortion	... —	—	0.54
Due to abortion	... —	—	0.10
Total	... —	—	0.64

### *Notifications*

Notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia	... 11	20.99	17.79
Whitehaven cases only	10	19.08	

## INFANTILE DEATHS.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per thousand live births:—

	<i>No. of</i>	
Legitimate	24.1,	Illegitimate 230.7.
		Total 29.3
England and Wales	... ..	24.9
160 Great Towns	... ..	25.1
160 Smaller Towns	... ..	25.2
London	... ..	23.2
County of Cumberland	... ..	28.4

The number of deaths of children under one year of age during 1955 was 15, viz., 11 males and 4 females, which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 29 per 1,000 registered live births.

This rate shows an increase of 9.3 per 1,000 compared with that for the previous year.

The chief causes and age distribution of the Infantile Deaths are shown in the accompanying table. 12, or 80 per cent., of the deaths occurred in the neo-natal period, that is, within the first month of life. The neo-natal Mortality Rate was 23 per 1,000 related births, as compared with a corresponding rate of 17.3 for England and Wales. The Mortality Rates for Male and Female Infants respectively were 42 and 16 per 1,000.

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY AGES AND CAUSE OF DEATH, 1955.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE IN WEEKS.				AGE IN MONTHS						Total Deaths.
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	Under 1 M <sup>th</sup>	1—2	2—3	3—6	6—9	9—12	
Premature Birth ... ..	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Congenital Malformation and Debility	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	3
Accident ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Causes ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	12	—	—	—	12	—	1	1	1	—	15



The following Table shows the annual average number of Infantile Deaths and the annual average rate per 1,000 live births by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures for 1955:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven		England and Wales
	Average Annual No. of Deaths of Infants under one year of age	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1891—1895	88	148	151
1896—1900	89	150	156
1901—1905	92	143	138
1906—1910	84	142	117
1911—1915	79	140	110
1916—1920	62	117	90
1921—1925	57	102	76
1926—1930	53	89	68
1931—1935	44	74	62
1936—1940	27	65	55
1941—1945	25	56	50
1946—1950	24	47	36
1951—1955	14	28	27
1955	15	29	25

## B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

These are shown at the beginning of the Report.

### 2. SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

(a) *Laboratory Facilities.* These are as stated in previous Reports.

## C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary matters are fully dealt with in a report by Mr. Beldon, Sanitary Inspector, which is printed as an Appendix, and few matters call for special comment.

# NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

No action was taken during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

## 1.—HOUSING.

During 1955 one hundred and seventy permanent houses were completed by the Corporation. This figure includes 70 Easiform and 100 Traditional Houses. Two hundred and two houses were in various stages of construction at the end of the year.

Building was distributed as follows:—

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>No. in Scheme</i>	<i>Completed in 1955</i>	<i>In Course of Erection 1955</i>
Valley Scheme No. 12 ...	200	40	Nil
Valley Scheme No. 13 ... (Aged Persons Bungalows)	20	16	Nil
Valley Scheme No. 14 ...	74	28	Nil
Valley Scheme No. 15 ...	50	22	28
Valley Scheme No. 16 ...	168	62	106
Disabled Persons			
Bungalows ...	2	2	Nil
Homewood No. 1 ...	50	—	50
Homewood No. 2 ...	38	—	18
Total ...		170	202

In addition 3 houses were completed by Private Enterprise and 4 were in course of erection.

The total number of Corporation houses occupied on 31st December, 1955, was 3,944.

## 2.—WATER SUPPLY.

The average daily supply of treated water is approximately two million eight hundred thousand gallons.

One sample taken before chlorination was examined chemically and bacteriologically, and the result was as follows:—

	<i>Parts per</i>				
	100,000				
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	...	...	0.9000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.0033
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0043
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0026
Oxygen Absorption	...	...	...	...	0.0210
Injurious Metals	...	...	...	...	None
Total Solid Matter dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	3.0000
pH value of Sample	...	...	...	...	6.2
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	.10°
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	.90°
Colour of Sample on Hazen Scale	...	...	...	...	3
Appearance of Sample in 2ft. tube	...	...	...	...	Not quite clear
Odour when heated to 50°C.	...	...	...	...	None

*Microscopical Examination.*

A minute deposit from half gallon consisting of earthy matter, vegetable debris, fungus growths, and micro-organisms.

*Bacteriological Examination.*

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37°C.					
after 72 hours	...	...	...	...	3 in 2 ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22°C.					
after 72 hours	...	...	...	...	1 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37°C. after 72 hours					Positive in 10 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 45°C. in 40 ml.					... Negative

*Observations.*

The chemical analysis of this sample shows that it is free from excessive amounts of nitrogenous constituents usually associated with undesirable drainage, but the microscopical examination and the fact that the probable number of coliform organisms is of the order of 25 per 100 ml. of sample show that there is some degree of contamination by matters derived from the surface, a not unusual circumstance in water which has not been treated, but as this supply is eventually subjected to chlorination it will be of perfectly satisfactory quality for human consumption.

(Signed) CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

Eight other samples were submitted, and the results which were uniformly good are tabulated overleaf:—



## WATER ANALYSIS.

Date	Before or After Chlorination	Number of Colonies on Nutrient Agar after 72 hours: at 37°C.	Presumptive B.Coli Test at 37°C. after 72 hours	Clostridium Welchii Test at 44°C. in 40ml. after 48 hours	Remarks.
14. 2.55	After	1 per ml.	Negative in 100 ml.	Negative	Of good and wholesome quality
18. 3.55	"	3 in 2 ml.	"	"	" " " "
18. 4.55	Before	3 in 2 ml.	"	"	" " " "
28. 6.55	After	108 per ml.	Positive in 40 ml.	"	*See Note below
18. 7.55	"	1 per ml.	Negative in 100 ml.	"	Of good and wholesome quality
20. 8.55	"	1 per ml.	"	"	" " " "
10.10.55	"	3 in 2 ml.	"	"	" " " "
22.12.55	"	6 per ml.	"	"	" " " "

\* NOTE: The results afforded by the bacteriological examination of this sample leave much to be desired, for the count on Agar at 20/22°C. is high and the probable number of coliform organisms, which is of the order of 50 per 100 ml. of sample, is excessive for a chlorinated supply.

It would be advisable to increase the dose of chlorine, at any rate for the present.



There are now no dwelling houses without a separate supply of water.

*Swimming Bath.*—Samples of water from the Public Swimming Bath where a continuous process of filtration and chlorination is operated, the complete bath content undergoing treatment every four hours, showed the water to be of drinking water standard.

#### D.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

##### I. *Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).*

Infectious diseases notified during the year are shown by age-groups in the following table with the number admitted to Hospital and the number of deaths from these diseases.

From the table it will be seen that the Borough was almost entirely free from Infectious Disease.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

DISEASE.		Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	...	16	4	3	1	2	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	— (all forms)	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Measles	...	5	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

### *Scarlet Fever.*

Two cases were notified during the year. This gives a rate of 0.08 per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.73 for England and Wales. No case was admitted to hospital, and there were no deaths.

### *Diphtheria.*

For the ninth year in succession no cases were notified. This gives a rate of nil per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.004 for England and Wales. There has not been a death from Diphtheria since 1936—the year in which immunisation was commenced, so there has not been a death for 20 years.

The following Table shows the annual number of notifications of Diphtheria, the incidence per 1,000 of population, the annual number of deaths, and the mortality rate per 100 cases notified.

Period	Number of cases notified	attack rate per 1,000 of population	Number of deaths	Annual fatality rate per 100 notified cases
*1936	31	1.3	3	10
1937	24	1.1	0	0
1938	14	0.6	0	0
1939	2	0.1	0	0
1940	4	0.2	0	0
1941	5	0.2	0	0
1942	2	0.1	0	0
1943	3	0.1	0	0
1944	8	0.4	0	0
1945	2	0.1	0	0
1946	3	0.1	0	0
1947	0	0.0	0	0
1948	0	0.0	0	0
1949	0	0.0	0	0
1950	0	0.0	0	0
1951	0	0.0	0	0
1952	0	0.0	0	0
1953	0	0.0	0	0
1954	0	0.0	0	0
1955	0	0.0	0	0

\* Immunisation commenced in 1936.

## DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

The responsibility for this has now passed entirely to the County Council, and I am indebted to the Divisional County Medical Officer for the information relating to the Borough.

During 1955 a total of 417 new immunisations were completed, 268 in the 0-5 years-of-age group and 149 in the 5-15 year groups.

In addition, 952 children were re-immunised, re-immunisation being available for the children who have been immunised in infancy and are now beginning school, and for older children whose immunisation was done more than four years ago.

The number of children immunised since the scheme was begun under local arrangements in 1936 has now reached the total of 12,615, and these are shown by ages at the time of their original immunisation in the Table hereunder.

### PERCENTAGES OF CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED.

#### (a) 0-5 years of age.

The number of children in the age-groups 1951-55 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1955, and of whom the Local Authority has details, was 1,152, a nett decrease for the year of 53.

#### (b) 5-15 years of age.

The number of children in the age-groups 1941-1950 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1955, and of whom the Local Authority has details, was 4,121—80 more than the figure for the previous year.

It should, however, be pointed out that the table does not allow for deaths, removals, etc., in the numbers shown as immunised. The fact remains that this group has been to all intents and purposes wholly immunised.

#### (c) Over 15 years of age.

The number over 15 years of age on the 31st December, 1955, who have been immunised was 7,342.



# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION PERSONS INOCULATED EACH YEAR 1936—1955.

Age in years on 31st Dec. of the corres- ponding year.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1955.
0	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	27	32	22	16	20	16	3	18	33	21	1152
1	—	—	—	2	4	42	125	189	206	168	241	240	272	198	220	198	208	244	226	195	
2	—	—	2	12	13	77	130	139	113	58	156	42	58	40	63	67	45	78	48	46	
3	—	—	6	19	23	73	120	99	65	8	28	23	10	3	15	13	14	50	10	5	
4	66	38	30	29	42	96	109	86	53	16	13	14	7	16	7	7	6	28	8	1	
5	222	139	146	126	162	188	134	120	53	28	17	18	25	35	18	38	62	22	9	43	4121
6	222	73	68	37	79	116	58	71	48	37	19	14	14	32	35	29	52	41	63	54	
7	145	60	45	30	52	62	34	29	39	11	7	7	4	14	11	20	7	8	19	25	
8	19	163	41	12	32	61	34	32	46	7	3	2	1	7	2	1	10	3	3	21	
9	1	250	36	28	23	44	33	30	31	7	2	7	2	9	—	2	7	1	1	3	
10	1	272	55	23	15	33	28	22	16	10	4	5	5	9	—	3	5	1	—	2	7342
11	205	258	58	25	27	28	21	17	17	3	1	—	6	4	2	—	7	2	—	1	
12	208	118	63	21	10	30	24	15	19	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	2	1	—	
13	211	62	52	20	10	17	17	13	15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
14	204	43	58	15	1	15	6	8	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15 and over	—	8	4	—	—	65	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1955.
Total each yr.	1504	1484	664	399	494	947	878	874	724	363	518	404	426	386	393	394	427	498	421	417	Grand Total... 12615



### *Puerperal Pyrexia.*

Eleven cases were notified, all from Whitehaven Hospital. The rate per 1,000 total births was 20.99, as compared with 17.79 for the country as a whole. The number, however, included one case belonging to the Millom R.D., so that the Whitehaven cases only in relation to the Whitehaven births was really 19.08.

### *Pneumonia.*

Sixteen cases of Acute Primary, or Influenzal, Pneumonia were notified, giving a rate of 0.63 per 1,000 of population, being the same as the rate for England and Wales. The number of deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) was 5, 2 less than in the previous year, the Death Rate from this disease being 0.20, as compared with 0.49 for the whole country.

### *Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

No case was notified.

### *Erysipelas.*

No cases were notified, giving a rate of nil per 1,000 of population, compared with 0.10 for England and Wales.

### *Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.*

No cases were notified, giving a rate of nil per 1,000, compared with 0.03 for England and Wales.

### *Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis.*

Three cases of Poliomyelitis were notified. Two non-paralytic cases were treated in hospital. The other—a paralytic case—was treated at home, followed by out-patient hospital treatment. The attack rate was 0.08 per 1,000 for non-paralytic cases and 0.04 for paralytic, as compared with 0.06 and 0.08 respectively for England and Wales. There were no deaths from this disease—the mortality rate for the whole country being 0.01.

### *Measles.*

Five cases were notified throughout the year. The rate was 0.20 per 1,000 of population, compared with 0.70 for England and Wales. No case was admitted to Hospital, and there were no deaths.

### *Whooping Cough.*

Three cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.12 per 1,000 of population, compared with 0.29 for England and Wales. There was one death, giving a Death Rate of 0.04 per 1,000 of population, compared with 0.00 for the whole country.



II.—CANCER.

There were 49 deaths from Cancer during the year, 15 more than in 1954. The Mortality Rate from this disease was 1.94 per 1,000 of population, as compared with the figure for the country as a whole of 2.06.

The primary sites of the lesions were as follows:—

<i>Males.</i>				<i>Females.</i>			
Oesophagus	...	...	1	Bronchus	...	...	1
Bronchus	...	...	2	Stomach	...	...	8
Lung	...	...	2	Colon	...	...	4
Stomach	...	...	7	Bladder	...	...	1
Pancreas	...	...	1	Breast	...	...	3
Colon	...	...	2	Uterus	...	...	8
Bladder	...	...	2	Vulva	...	...	1
Prostate	...	...	1	Liver	...	...	1
Scrotum	...	...	1	Thyroid	...	...	1
Brain	...	...	1				
Eye	...	...	1				
—				—			
21				28			
—				—			

The average age at death of all cases was 67 years—of males 65 and of females 68, and the ages ranged from 42 to 89 in the males and 49 to 89 in the females.

The Death Rate from Cancer in the Borough as compared with the rate for England and Wales by five-year periods is shown in the following Table, together with the actual figures for 1955:—

Period	Borough of Whitehaven		England and Wales
	Average No. of deaths	Av. Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Average Rate per 1,000 of population
1901—05	17	0.90	0.87
1906—10	15	0.77	0.94
1911—15	17	0.87	1.05
1916—20	24	1.30	1.18
1921—25	23	1.11	1.27
1926—30	25	1.19	1.41
1931—35	31	1.39	1.53
1936—40	39	1.74	1.66
1941—45	34	1.41	1.87
1946—50	39	1.69	1.88
1951—55	42	1.69	1.95
1955	49	1.94	2.06



### III.—PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was taken under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### IV.—TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the new cases and mortality for the Borough of Whitehaven during 1955 by age-groups and sex:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1— 5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
5—10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
10—15	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—25	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
25—35	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—45	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
45—55	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19	18	2	0	1	1	0	0

Total new cases                   ...                   ...                   39

Total Deaths                   ...                   ...                   2

*New Cases.*—Altogether, the new cases show a decrease of 3 as compared with the figure for the previous year, the male non-respiratory cases being 5 less and the female non-respiratory cases 7 less, but the male respiratory group was 5 more and the female respiratory group was 4 more.

During 1955 3,961 persons were X-rayed in Whitehaven and 18 active and 28 inactive new cases were discovered by this means.

*Deaths.*—Deaths for the year were 2 less than in the previous year, the decrease being in the male group.

Of the deaths, one only had not been notified prior to death as suffering from this disease.

# DEATH RATE.

Death Rate per 1,000 of population :—

			<i>Whitehaven.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Respiratory	...	...	0.08	0.13
Non-Respiratory	...	...	0.00	0.02
All Forms	...	...	0.08	0.15

The rate shows an improvement of 0.08 as compared with the rate for the previous year, and is the best rate ever recorded for Whitehaven. For the second time the rate is below that of England as a whole, being 0.07 less.

The following Table shows the Death Rate per 1,000 of population from Tuberculosis Diseases in Whitehaven, as compared with England and Wales as a whole, by five-year groups from 1911, together with the figures for 1955 :—

Year Groups	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			Tuberculosis (all forms).		
	Whitehaven		England and Wales. Death Rate per 1,000	Whitehaven		England and Wales Death Rate per 1,000
	Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.		Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.	
1911—15	19.8	1.03	1.05	34.6	1.81	1.41
1916—20	22.2	1.22	1.11	33.6	1.85	1.48
1921—25	22.2	1.10	0.86	29.8	1.47	1.08
1926—30	20.0	0.95	0.76	25.2	1.20	0.94
1931—35	20.4	0.94	0.61	26.8	1.23	0.81
1936—40	20.6	0.91	0.56	24.8	1.10	0.67
1941—45	17.0	0.76	0.55	23.6	1.05	0.66
1946—50	16.6	0.71	0.42	21.0	0.90	0.48
1951—55	7.4	0.30	0.19	7.8	0.31	0.22
1955	2	0.08	0.13	2	0.08	0.15

The number of cases belonging to the district who received Sanatorium treatment during the year are shown in the following Table:—

### SANATORIUM TREATMENT

	In Institutions 1st Jan. 1955.	Admitted	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Institutions 1st Jan. 1956
PULMONARY CASES:					
Men ... ..	5	7	8	—	4
Women ... ..	5	12	15	—	2
Boys ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Girls ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
NON-PULMONARY CASES:					
Men ... ..	2	—	2	—	—
Women ... ..	1	—	1	—	—
Boys ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Girls ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
OBSERVATION CASES:					
Males ... ..	1	—	—	1	—
Females ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	15	19	26	1	7

The above Table shows the number of Tuberculosis cases and Observation Tuberculosis cases from the Borough of Whitehaven that received Sanatorium treatment under the County Council Scheme during 1955. Altogether 34 cases from Whitehaven were treated in Sanatoria during the year.

The number of notified cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1955 was:—

Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	123
—Females	...	...	...	...	137
Non-Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	48
—Females	...	...	...	...	37
Total					345

*APPENDIX.*  
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
REPORT.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
53, DUKE STREET,  
WHITEHAVEN.

January, 1956.

To the Medical Officer of Health,  
WHITEHAVEN.

Sir,

I wish to submit my fifth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Once again the main work of the department has been concerned with housing and progress continues to be made in the closure of the unfit dwellings in the town and district. The reluctance of many persons to move to new housing sites is still encountered and it would appear that until re-development takes place in the town itself that this problem will continue. The number of occupied unfit houses in the George Street and Harbour Development Areas continues to be reduced steadily, although for technical reasons actual demolition does not immediately follow. The majority of unfit houses must be dealt with by individual action as in previous years, although a small number of Clearance Areas is possible.

Food supplies inspection and hygiene has been given considerable attention and some satisfaction can be derived from the increased public interest to cleaner food handling.

Water supply, sampled regularly from various points, showed a consistently excellent standard of purity.

## SECTION A.

### HOUSING.

During the year 78 dwellings were dealt with under Housing Act 1936, Sec. 11 and 12, or by Closing Orders under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act. One offer of works was subsequently accepted to render a house fit. Fifty Demolition Orders were served, 13 Closing Orders and 15 Undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted.

In addition to the above, 19 informal undertakings were received from the owners of unfit dwellings.

Thus a total of 97 unfit dwelling houses was dealt with during the year. Eighty-four dwellings were vacated and the occupiers re-housed by the Local Authority.

The repair of existing houses was limited to essential matters and only two cases of repair under Section 9 were enforced. In one case it was necessary for the Local Authority to act in default.

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, twenty-four certificates of disrepair were granted following applications from occupiers. Few property owners have attempted to spend capital in order to increase the rent.

With a view to dealing with certain dwellings more expeditiously six Clearance Areas were inspected in preparation for action under Housing Act, 1936.

## HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

No complete figure can be given without a survey. Two cases of overcrowding under the 1936 standard were discovered during house visits throughout the year.

### RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Drainage Work (New)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drains Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Food Preparers	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	478
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Infectious Disease Inquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Infectious Disease Fumigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Interviews with Owners/Occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	785
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Milk Shops and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Refuse Receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Repairs—Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	740
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Vessels in Harbour	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	415
Total							3879

## REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chimney Stack/Flues repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	41
Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Eavesgutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
External Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Gullies repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	11
Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	32
Rain Water Pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wall and ceiling plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	19
Windows repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	...	10

Total 257

## DISINFECTION AND VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Thirty-four rooms were disinfected after infectious disease during the year.

Infestation by bed bug was again very limited, amounting to 5 reported cases which received suitable treatment. Complaints of other insect pests were received and by far the most numerous were cases of infestation by cockroach; four houses required extensive treatment.

## RODENT CONTROL.

Seventy-six complaints of infestation by rats or mice were received during the year and 97 visits made for this purpose. Most of these cases involved dwelling houses, but the infestations were of a minor type. Some business premises were also affected. No major outbreak was discovered. Advice and treatment were given in all cases.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT and ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

No serious nuisance from the emission of industrial smoke occurred during the year and no action, other than informal advice, was necessary.

The emission of fume from a new chemical plant producing sulphuric acid was the subject of negotiations with the owners, the Inspector of Acid and Alkali Plant and the Local Authority.



Attempts by the firm to reduce the volume and offensive nature of the flue gases are being pursued energetically and work is still in progress.

## SECTION B. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) *Milk Supply.*

Few changes have occurred during the year in the distribution of Milk Supplies. The standard on the whole is good and distributors are co-operative in the task of ensuring a clean supply to the public. There is a growing tendency for retailers to handle milk which is delivered to them ready capped and bottled and it would appear that the retailer is becoming more a distributor only. Attention is paid to the inspection of premises and vehicles and contact with the distributors is maintained.

At the end of the year there were 20 persons registered as distributors of milk in the Borough. Of this number 7 are also producers, 13 have premises registered for the sale, storage or handling of milk and one sells from a grocer's shop.

Seventeen persons are distributors of T.T. milk, 9 of pasteurised and 3 of ungraded. No sterilised milk is sold.

Sixty-seven visits have been paid to dairy premises during the year. Sampling is carried out for cleanliness testing only, and the results of samples taken during the year are as follows:

T.T.	...	...	12 Satisfactory	5 Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	...	...	1 Satisfactory	—
Ungraded	...	...	1 Satisfactory	1 Unsatisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples were rectified after investigations.

### *Ice Cream.*

There are in the Borough 8 manufacturers of Ice Cream and 61 premises are registered for the sale and storage of this food. There has been a decline in the number of new registrations, but consumption was heavy during the year. The use of prepacked blocks is encouraged and the standard of hygiene generally has been maintained.

Premises are inspected regularly and advice on methods given to retailers.

Sampling of ice cream gave the following results:—

11 samples were Grade I	...	Satisfactory.
6 samples were Grade II	...	Satisfactory.
1 sample was Grade IV	...	Unsatisfactory.

The one unsatisfactory sample reached Grade II after investigations into methods and a repeat sample.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Throughout the year Pottery Road Slaughterhouse, the only Slaughterhouse in the Borough, was administered by the Local Authority. These premises served a large number of butchers and in addition a wholesale meat trading company. Butchers buy their stock in the markets according to their requirements and use the facilities offered at the Slaughterhouse on payment of a headage toll. The Local Authority staff consisted of an Officer in charge and two cleaners. The services of one Meat and Food Inspector were necessary whole time to deal with the large increase in slaughtering which resulted after de-control of Meat.

In practice, control by the Local Authority worked well and the establishment was managed satisfactorily. A 100% inspection service was maintained and no carcase or offal left the premises without examination.

Some improvements were carried out during the year, such as a piped water supply to cattle pens, the provision of offal benches and an electrical pig stunner. Large improvements were postponed pending a decision on the future ownership of the premises. On 31st December the control of the Slaughterhouse passed out of the Local Authority's hands.

The following Table shows the number of animals slaughtered and the condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3,215	2,300	374	17,358	5,954
Number inspected ...	3,215	2,300	374	17,358	5,954
<i>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	27	17	12	42	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	1,206		5	492	51
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	22.66		4.54	3.07	.86
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	8	30	1	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	690		—	—	111
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	13.2		.26	—	1.91

Total Weight of Meat Condemned, 44 tons, 17 cwt., 93 lb.

## OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD SURRENDERED

Tinned Meats	...	...	...	1,193 lb.
Tinned Fruits	...	...	...	594 lb.
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	446 lb.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	80 lb.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	75 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	258 lb.
Beef	...	...	...	79 lb.
Butter	...	...	...	4 lb.
Cake	...	...	...	106 lb.
Coffee	...	...	...	1 lb.
Cereals	...	...	...	1 lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	60 lb.
Chicken	...	...	...	8 lb.
Dried Vegetables	...	...	...	4 lb.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	35 lb.
Flour	...	...	...	18 lb.
Frozen Beef	...	...	...	42 lb.
Jam	...	...	...	140 lb.
Potatoes	...	...	...	1,904 lb.
Pork	...	...	...	155 lb.
Sausages	...	...	...	139 lb.
Spaghetti	...	...	...	26 lb.
Soup	...	...	...	14 lb.
Yeast	...	...	...	359 lb.

Total 4,741 lb.

## FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

The inspection of food premises of all types, including those registered as food preparers, has been continued. No formal action was necessary during the year and every effort is made by informal contact with occupiers to achieve and maintain a high standard of hygienic food handling. Food traders are usually co-operative.

The following statement shows the number of premises, other than Dairies and Grocers' Shops, handling foodstuffs:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	23
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	63
Potted, pickled, pressed and preserved foods (meat products, sausages, fish, cakes, etc.)	...	...	...	...	18
Fried Fish shops	...	...	...	...	14
Restaurants, Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	8

Three hundred and twenty-five visits were paid to food premises during the year.



## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Two premises are registered as Offensive Trades, one Rag and Bone and one Tripe and Gut Scraping.

Twelve visits were paid to the former premises, which were found satisfactory. The Tripe and Gut Scraping business is ancillary to the slaughterhouse and is under daily supervision.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. A. BELDON,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

## I. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prosecut- ions
(1) Factories without mech- anical power ... ..	16	43	—	—
(2) Factories with mechanical power ... ..	94	83	—	—
(3) Other premises ... ..	1	1	—	—
Total ... ..	111	127	—	—

## II. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	6	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	2	4	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	8	11	—	2	—







